Council Proceedings.

Council Chamber, January 15th, 1883.

The new Board of Aldermen met in the Council Chamber yesterday at noon according to the statute. There were in attendance:—His Worship Mayor Meredith and Aldermen Birrell, Labatt. Hunt, Hyman, O'Mara, Cowan, Skinner, Stringer, Browne, Boyd, Becher and Moore.

The City Clerk after having received the necessary oaths of qualification, called the new Council to order, and read the returns of the late municipal elections, which have been previously published in these columns.

THE INAUGURAL.

His Worship the Mayor, in assuming the chair for the second term, hoped that the members chosen as Aldermen by the citizens would transact the business to be brought before them in a business-like manner, and that in doing so as few speeches as possible would be the rule. During last year a bitter feeling cropped up between members at times, which hindered business materially. He trusted that there would be no display of that character in 1883, but that all would work energetically and honestly for the best interests of the city. He regretted personally that a number of gentlemen who had offered for the position of Alderman had not been returned, but the electors were the best qualified to judge, and had sent men to legislate for them in whom they had the fullest confidence. Many of the defeated candidates had done good service to the city, and were worthy of any honor their constituents could bestow upon them, but the reduction in the number of wards necessitated a corresponding reduction in the representation at the Council, and consequently the will of the people had to be accepted in this, as in many other matters, as final. He urged the members to practice the strictest possible economy, so that the expenditures might be brought as nearly as possible within the revenue. He believed a large reduction could be made in the expenditures of the Board of Works, and that at least $15,000 could be saved from this source over that of last year. If improvements were found actually necessary, it would be well to bring in vogue the Local Improvement Act, and let those who desired the improvements pay for them. Another important matter which would call for their attention was the assessment of the city. While he had no complaints to make against the gentlemen who had held the position of Assessors, he believed that, with the assistance of the Court of Revision and the Finance Committee, fully $1,000,000 could be added to the assessment of the city. With an amount such as stated added, the Council might be able to bring the rate down considerably lower than it has been for some years past. He suggested the appointment of a Special Committee to bring in report regarding the reorganization of the city offices, so that a proper system might be introduced, and money, if possible, saved thereby. He believed that the efficiency of several officers would be secured by more systematic work. The work of the Tax Collectors and the Relief Officer might be harmonized and saving effected thereby. He trusted, in conclusion, that the members would unite in advancing, as far as in them lay, the interests of the city, and that no trouble would arise in the successful carrying out of their intentions. (Applause.)

A COMPLIMENT.

Ald. Hyman at this juncture offered the congratulations of the Council of 1883 to His Worship on the occasion of his re-election by acclamation, which testified that he had done his work to their satisfaction, and he might add, to the members of the Council of 1882. He could assure him of the goodwill and respect of the present Council, and hoped that the year upon which they had entered might be even more pleasant, if possible, than that which had passed. (Applause.)

The Mayor—I am extremely gratified to you all for the handsome compliment paid.

The minutes of the previous meetings of Council were then read and confirmed.

AUDITORS.

Applications were read from Messrs.